

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PLANNING PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

Public participation was a key component of the strategic planning process for the Boise County Mitigation Wildfire Plan (The Plan).

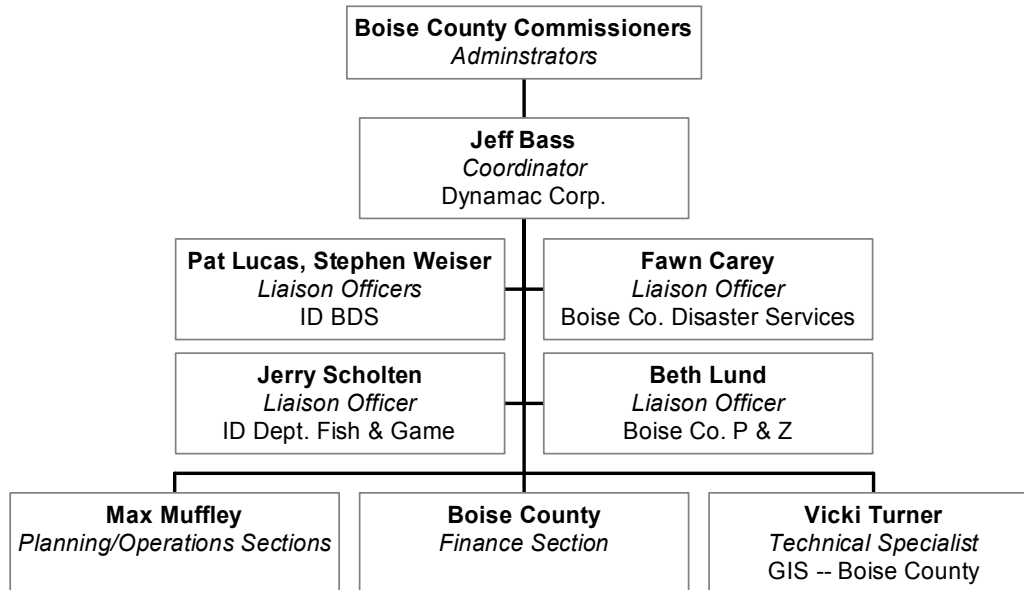
The Plan integrates a cross-section of citizen and agency input that was gathered throughout the planning process.

Structured under the Incident Command System, the Boise County Wildfire Group was formed to steer this process. The Group was comprised of knowledgeable individuals representing the major land stakeholders in the county, including:

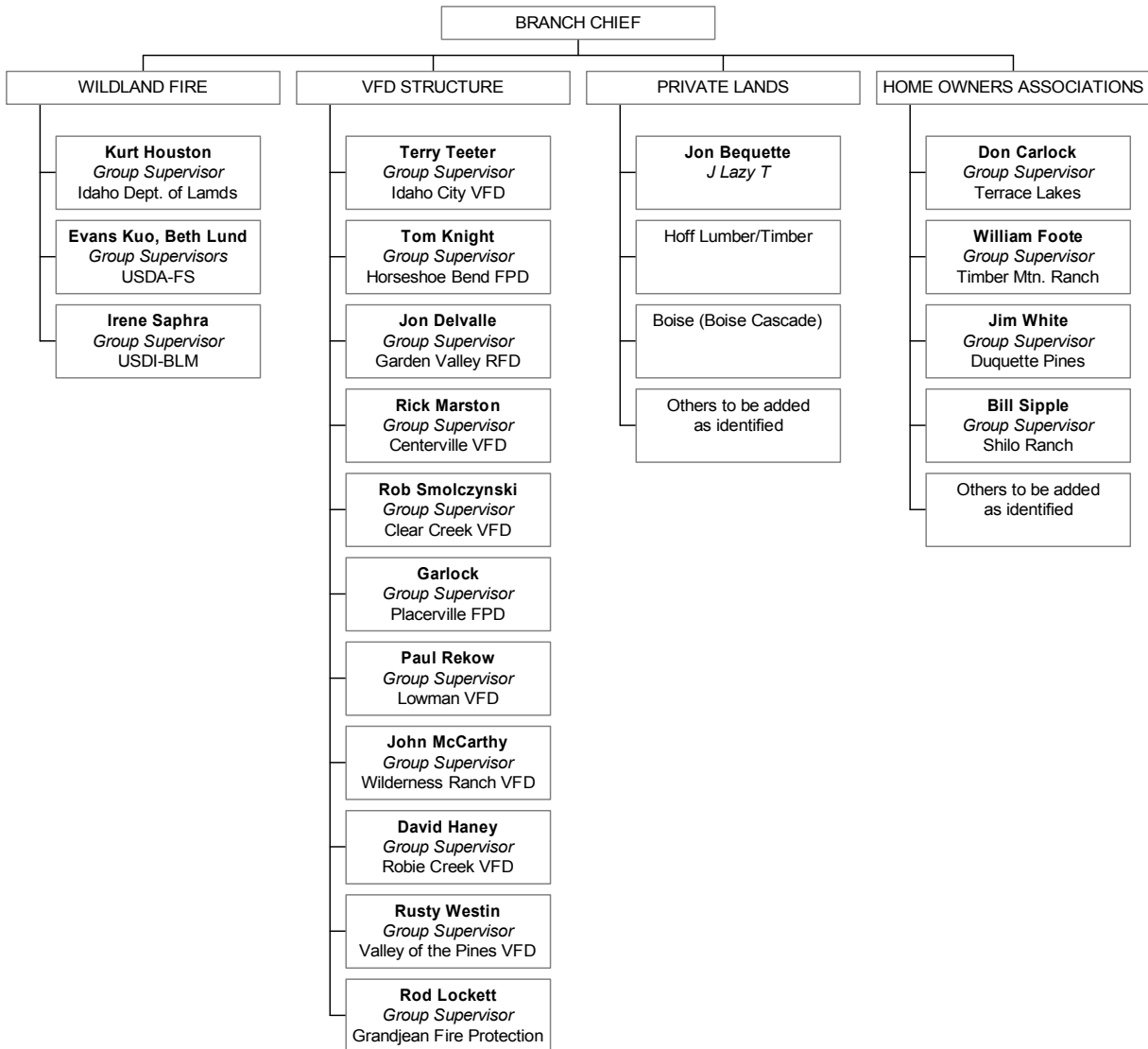
- Boise County Commissioners
- Boise County GIS
- Boise County Planning and Zoning
- Boise County Disaster Services
- Boise County Assessors
- Boise County Fire Fighters Association
- Boise County Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs
- Boise County Sheriff's Office
- Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Fish and Game
- Home Owners' Associations
- County Residents and Land owners
- USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake River District
- USDA-Forest Service, Boise National Forest

The use of ICS provided optimal information exchange, hazard identification and mitigation recommendation development. Public participation was accomplished by distribution of questionnaires that address wildfire concerns and suggestions, participation by homeowners associations at the team leader level, and utilization of information from community hazard identification and mitigation reports conducted within Boise County by Dynamac Corporation for the Bureau of Land Management in 2001.

Boise County Wildland Fire Group



Boise County Wildland Fire Group -- Branches



Boise County Wildland Fire Group -- Branches -- Garden Valley Division



MEETINGS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Meeting 1 — Boise County Wildfire Group, Date: 01/23/03

Location: Idaho City, Idaho

Objective(s): The objectives of the first meeting for the Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan were:

1. Recognition by County Commissioners
2. Familiarization with County Wide Wildfire Plan requirements
3. Boise County Wildfire Group Organizational development.
4. Document Boise County Wildfire Group position assignments.

Participants:

Roger Jackson, Chairperson, Boise County Commissioners
Vicki Turner, Boise County GIS specialist
Richard Markley, District Ranger, USFS, Idaho City, Boise National Forest
Walt Rogers, District Ranger, USFS, Lowman, Boise National Forest
Evan Kuo, Fire/Fuels Specialist, Boise National Forest
Kurt Houston, Forester/Fire Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands
Rosey Thomas, Fire Management Officer, Lower Snake Field Office, BLM Idaho
Randy Eardley, Fire Specialist, Lower Snake Field Office, BLM Idaho
Irene Saphra, Fuels Specialist, Lower Snake Field Office, BLM Idaho
Stephen Wieser, Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services, Boise, Idaho
Pat Lucas, Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services, Boise, Idaho
Fawn Caray, Boise County Disaster Services
Jerry Schulte, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Rob Smolezynski, Clear Creek Volunteer Fire Department Chief
Jon Delvalle, Garden Valley Volunteer Fire Department Chief
Will Reynolds, Clear Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Terry Teeter, Idaho City Volunteer Fire Department Chief
John McCarthy, Wilderness Ranch Volunteer Fire Department Chief
Carrie Wiss, Wilderness Ranch Volunteer Fire Department
Joe Weiss, Placerville VFD and EMS
Deanna Stevenson, Editor, Idaho World Newspaper
Don Carlock, Terrace Lakes Home Owners Association
Beckie Nichols, Terrace Lakes Home Owners Association
Craig Hawk, Terrace Lakes Home Owners Association
William Foote, Timber Mountain Ranch Home Owners Association
Jim White, Duquette Pines Home Owners Association
John Bequette, J Lazy T Ranch
Jeff Bass, Garden Valley Resident, Dynamac Corporation

Documentation/Synopsis:

Meeting started at 7 PM, Mr. Roger Jackson provided a welcome to attendees. Mr. Jackson introduced Jeff Bass of Dynamac Corporation as the selected Coordinator for development of the Boise County Wildfire Plan (The Plan).

Mr. Bass provided information about the plan and background.

Development of the Boise County Wildfire Mitigation Plan is recommended by the Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. This strategy was developed in 2002 by a statewide group and signed by the Governor, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Fire Chiefs association and Federal and other state agencies.

The plan is designed to meet FEMA grant requirements and build a foundation for assistance to Counties in reducing exposure and risk to wildfires.

The Boise County Wildfire Group was initiated under a modified Incident Command System structure.

Plan flow charts were distributed by Mr. Bass, and organizational positions were filled. Future Boise County Wildfire Group Meetings were to be held monthly, Group Supervisors were divided into two branches, the Wildfire Branch, consisting of Division Supervisors from Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, and the VFD/Structure/Private Land Owner Branch with Division Supervisors from the Volunteer Fire Departments, and Large Land Owners. Team leaders were representatives from numerous Home Owner Associations.

Examples of Wildfire Community Questionnaires were distributed to the participants. A press release addressing the plan development, identifying the Boise County Wildfire Group, and coordinator point of contact was provided to the editor of The Idaho World following the meeting and was published on 1/30/03 in the County newspaper.

Meeting 2 — Boise County Wildfire Group, Date: 02/20/03

Location: Horseshoe Bend, Idaho

Objectives:

1. Identify and select recommended County Wide Wildfire Priorities.
2. Identify wildfire hazards by Group Supervisors and Team Leaders.

Participants:

Dale Hansen, Boise County Commissioners
Vicki Wilkins, Boise County GIS
Rosey Thomas, Fire Management Officer, BLM, Lower Snake River Dist.
Richard Markley, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Walt Rogers, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Evans Kuo, Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Myron Hatinger, Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Ray Mockly, Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Stephen Weiser, Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services
Carl Sturdy, Boise Cascade Corp.
Jim White, Duquette Pines HOA
John Bequette, J Lazy T Ranch
Mike Hefner, Horseshoe Bend City Fire Department
Jon Delvalle, Garden Valley Fire Department
Joe Weiss, Placerville EMS and Fire Department
Kurt Houston, Idaho Department of Lands
Bob Stevenson, Garden Valley Fire Board
Tom Knight, Horseshoe Bend Fire Department
Jennifer Myslivy, Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Max Muffley, Wildfire Branch Coordinator, Dynamac Corporation
Jeff Bass, Plan Coordinator, Dynamac Corporation

Documentation/Synopsis:

Max Muffley of Dynamac Corporation introduced as Branch coordinator for the Wildfire Branch.

The priorities selected for the Boise County Wildfire Mitigation Plan were decided upon, they are, life, property, and values at risk.

Wildfire hazards were identified by Group Supervisors and Team Leaders were as follows. County Wide Wildland Fuels build up in wildland/urban interface areas, availability of wildfire suppressants in the wildland/urban interface, ingress/egress to current and future developments in the wildland urban interface, County wide fire emergency communications, and fuels build up and forestry issues on Federal and state managed lands.

GIS data needs were presented and web sites for storage of data provided. Risks were address as being low, moderate, and high, and will be included in mitigation actions according to priorities.

A press release discussing the meeting, specifically the priorities selected and hazards identified by the Boise County Wildfire Group with points of contact, organizational structure and representation was provided to the editor of The Idaho World and published on 2/26/03 in the County newspaper.

Meeting 3 — Boise County Wildfire Group, Date: 03/23/03

Location: Garden Valley, Idaho

Objectives:

1. Identify locations of wildfire hazards and high risk areas in Boise County on GIS maps supplied by Boise County, Idaho Department of Lands, and U.S. Forest Service
2. Identify County infrastructure areas of risk

Develop mitigation recommendations for hazards with high risks.

Participants:

Fred Lawson, Boise County Commissioner
Marla Lawson, Lowman, Idaho
Irene Saphra, Fuels/Fire Specialist, BLM, Lower Snake River District
Daryl Albiston Field Office Manager, BLM 4 Rivers Field Office
Kurt Houston, Forester/Fire Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands
Carl Sturdy, Boise Cascade Corporation
Mike Hefner, Horseshoe Bend Fire Department
John McCarthy, Wilderness Ranch Fire Department
Carrie Wiss, Wilderness Ranch Fire Department
Pamela Garlock, Placerville Fire Department, Boise County Dispatch
Jon Delvalle, Garden Valley Fire Department
Stanley Erskine, Lowman Fire Department
Myron Hotinger, Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service Boise N.F.
Evans Kuo, Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service Boise N.F.
Jerry Scholten, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Max Muffley, Wildfire Branch Coordinator, Dynamac Corporation
Jeff Bass, Plan Coordinator, Dynamac Corporation

Documentation/Synopsis:

VFD/Structure Group identified County infrastructure assets as risk elements and reviewed identified hazards for development of mitigation recommendations. The Wildfire and VFD/Structure Groups concluded that areas of high risk will be identified in GIS data with focus on communities and community depended watersheds. Watersheds at high risk were identified by the Wildfire Group. The BCWG elected to prepare wildfire plan mitigation recommendations as short term and long term.

A press release discussing the meeting, specifically informing citizens of the focus on community dependent watersheds, long and short term mitigation goals, and County infrastructure needs was provided to the editor of “The Idaho World” and published on April 3rd, 2003. A point of contact for the plan was included in the press release.

Meeting 4 — Boise County Wildfire Group, Date: 04/22/03

Location: Idaho City, Idaho

Objectives:

1. Review and provide additional mitigation recommendation action items- VFD/Structure Branch.
2. Identify GIS data needs for identification of action items- Wildfire Branch

Participants:

Terry Teeter, Idaho City Fire Chief
Jon Delvalle, Garden Valley Fire Chief
Pamela Garlock, Placerville VFD, Boise County Dispatch
Jerry Scholton, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Dick Markley, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Myron Hotinger, Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Evans Kuo, Fire Management Officer, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Jim White, Duquette Pines HOA
Bruce Reichert, Duquette Pines HOA
Vicki Turner, Boise County GIS
Kitty Arrons, Boise County Resident
Steve Wilkins, Centerville Resident
Max Muffley Wildfire Branch Coordinator, Dynamac Corporation
Jeff Bass Coordinator, Dynamac Corporation

Documentation/Synopsis:

Boise County Wildfire Mitigation Plan progress and tracking was presented by the coordinators. VFD/Structure branch provided additional recommendations to the action items and reinforced emergency services county-wide communication needs, mobilization/communication plans, rolling stock needs (water tenders), training and PPE.

The Wildfire branch identified high risk WUI watersheds and will coordinate with County and Dynamac GIS specialists. Dynamac's ftp site will be use to store data. County GIS specialist will be very busy in May.

Plan coordinator will work with Boise County Assessors office for cost/benefits. Mitigation Action items will be presented as long and short term.

Priorities will be recommended, final prioritization will be conducted by the Boise County Commissioners.

The survey of the Boise County Fire Fighters conducted by Idaho Department of Lands will identify needs of VFD throughout the county and will be added to the appendix of the plan.

A press release describing the meeting specifically long and short term plan goals, the State VFD survey, GIS identification and mapping of high risk watershed for inclusion to the plan was provided to the editor of The Idaho World and published on April 30, 2003. A point of contact for input to or questions about the plan was provided in the article.

Meeting 5 — Boise Count Wildfire Group, Date 5/22/03

Objectives: Review Draft Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan for additional inputs, and changes.

Participants:

Myron Hotinger Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service Boise N.F.
Beth Lund Fire Management Officer, U.S. Forest Service Boise N.F.
Jerry Scholten, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Stanly Erskine, Lowman VFD
Kurt Houston, Forester/Fire Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands
Evans Kuo, Fire Management Officer, U.S. Forest Service Boise N.F.
Fawn Caray, Boise County Disaster Services
Rosey Thomas, Fire Management Officer, BLM, Lower Snake River District
Walt Rogers, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service Boise N.F.
Dick Markley, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service Boise N.F.
Dale Hanson, Boise County Commissioner
John Bequette, J Lazy T ranch
Max Muffley, Dynamac Corporation
Jeff Bass Dynamac Corporation

Documentation/Synopsis:

A draft of the Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan was distributed to attendees for review of format, mitigation action items, timelines and confirm GIS data needs. Modifications to the action items were accomplished and some projected timelines adjusted.

Electronic copies of the draft were then sent to all Boise County Wildfire Group Supervisors, and Liaisons. Hard copies of the draft were delivered to the Boise County Commissioners. Some GIS data needs in support of the mitigation action items will be completed in June.

Meeting 6 — Boise County Wildfire Group, Date 6/26/03

Objective: Review Final Boise County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan

Participants:

Jerry Scholten Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Evans Kou, Fire Management Officer, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Walt Roger, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Irene Saphra, Fire/Fuel Specialist, Lower Snake River District, BLM
Mike Theisen, Fire/Fuels Specialist, Lower Snake River District, BLM
Myron Hotinger, Fire/Fuels Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, Boise N.F.
Kurt Houston, Forester/Fire Specialist, Idaho Department of Lands
Stephen Weiser, Bureau of Disaster Services, State of Idaho
Pat Lucas, Bureau of Disaster Services, State of Idaho
Jon Delvalle, Chief, Garden Valley Fire Department
Terry Teeter, Chief, Idaho City Fire Department
Fawn Caray, Boise County Disaster Services
Max Muffley, Dynamac Corporation
Jeff Bass, Dynamac Corporation

Documentation /Synopsis:

A copy of the Draft Boise County Wildfire Mitigation Plan was distributed electronically to all participants and all members of the BCWG. Final review input provided at the workshop included input for modifications, additions to and deletions from the plan by County and State Bureau of Disaster Services, representative from the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, and the Fire Chief present. All action items and mitigation recommendations were reviewed and final inputs for structure, implementations and word were selected. GIS data on hard copy maps was provided by the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands, map data and information was reviewed for clarification. U.S. Forest Service GIS data will be sent by compact disc to the Dynamac Corporation GIS specialist for inclusion with the final County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan.

The Final Plan will be delivered to Boise Count on July 11th. Review of final plan requested by group prior to planning signature date.

Scoping and County Questionnaire:

Wildfire hazard assessment questionnaires were distributed to residents of Boise County during hazard assessments conducted in Garden Valley, Horseshoe Bend, and Idaho city by Dynamac Corporation in 2001, additional community questionnaires were distributed during the County Wildfire Mitigation plan. Of the total questionnaires returned the mitigation actions most requested by residents of Boise County were:

1. Additional prevention education and activities including Firewise practices and workshops.
2. Private, Federal and State Lands wildfire fuels reduction by thinning, removal, prescribed fire, chipping, selective removal after thinning,
3. Assistance and improvement for Boise County VFDs in equipment (wildfire fighting) Apparatus (engines and water tenders), training and communications.

**Community Questionnaire Wildland Fire Hazard and Mitigation
Boise County, Idaho**

To reduce the risk of wildfires, Boise County is initiating a County-wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The plan seeks to reduce the threat of wildland fire through risk assessment and hazard identification. Mitigation measures will include but are not limited to wildfire prevention and reduction of fuels, increasing fire protection capabilities of communities, and public education. The goal of the program is to decrease the chances of wildfire spreading from public lands onto private or community lands and vice-versa. You can help in this County-wide effort by providing information and suggestions on potential assessment and mitigation efforts.

1. What town or community do you live in or closest to?

2. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence?

3. What areas around your community do you think are an extreme fire hazard and pose a wildfire risk to homes or property?

4. What do you think might be the best way to mitigate, or reduce this hazard?

5. Do you know of any recent actions taken by the community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildland fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public to private lands?

6. Have there been recent fire reduction education programs in your community? If so, what was the nature of the projects?

Who sponsored them and when?

7. Besides residences and community buildings, are there other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have a high environmental, cultural, or economic value and should be a priority for fire risk reduction?

8. Do you think your community is prepared to combat wildland-urban interface fires?

If not, what do you think could be done to improve your town's / subdivision's wildland-urban interface firefighting capabilities?

If we have questions or would like more information, can we contact you?

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Thank you for your time and your ideas!